

FACT SHEET



Johns' Sludge Pond Site Wichita, Kansas

October 2002

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular checkups, called five-year reviews, on certain Superfund sites. EPA Region 7 and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recently completed its third, five-year review of the Johns' Sludge Pond site. The site is near 29th Street and Hydraulic Avenue in Wichita, Kansas.

EPA and KDHE conducted the five-year review to make sure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment.

Before cleanup, the pond on site contained acidic sludge and acidic water. EPA also found heavy metals in the sludge and water on the site, including lead and polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs.

Background

From 1951 to 1970, Super Refined Oil, which is no longer in business, recycled waste oil and disposed of an estimated 7,000 cubic yards of oily sludge into an unlined pond. The site would periodically flood during heavy rainfalls, releasing its contents to the surrounding surface waters.

Under EPA oversight, the city of Wichita removed sludge from the unlined pond and stored it on site. The city then installed a liner on the bottom and sides of the empty pond creating a protective disposal cell.

The stored sludge was treated and put into the cell. The city built a cap over the cell and covered it with soil and grass. The site was fenced to keep people off the site and to protect the cap and cover. Deed restrictions were placed on the property to restrict land uses.

The city of Wichita and the Sedgwick County Department of Community Health have been providing long-term maintenance of the site.

Five Year Review

This five-year review included; 1) comprehensive reviews of groundwater data generated since the previous five-year review and other relevant documents; 2) inspections of the nine monitoring wells and the disposal cell on site; 3) observation of surrounding land uses and the security of the site; and 4) enforcement of deed restrictions and institutional controls.

Groundwater data indicated that action levels were not exceeded and the site inspection revealed that monitoring wells and the disposal cell were in good repair and the site was protective of human health and the environment.

For More Information

The five-year review report and detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

Wichita City Hall	EPA Record Center
455 N. Main	901 N. 5 th Street
Wichita, Kansas	Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need more information on the Johns' Sludge Pond site or the Five-Year Review process, please contact:

Fritz Hirter
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 551-7003
Toll-free (800) 223-0425
E-mail: hirter.fritz@epa.gov